The Best Deeds

By Mansoor Ali Shah
لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللّٰهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللّٰهِ

Mansoor: Baba, what is the best thing a Muslim can do?

Baba: That's a wonderful question, my son. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was once asked the same question. Do you know what he said?

Mansoor: Tell me, Baba!

Baba: He said the best deed is to believe in Allah and His Messenger ﷺ.

Mansoor: Oh! That means having faith, right?

Baba: Yes, faith is the foundation of everything. If our hearts truly believe in Allah and His Messenger ﷺ, our actions will be guided by goodness.

Mansoor: What is the next best deed, Baba?

Baba: The Prophet ﷺ said the next best deed is to strive in the way of Allah.

Mansoor: Strive? Does that mean fighting?

Baba: Striving can mean many things, my dear. It means working hard to do what pleases Allah. Sometimes, it means defending what is right. Other times, it means struggling against our own bad habits or helping those in need.

Mansoor: Oh! Like when I try to wake up for Fajr, even when I feel sleepy?

Baba: Exactly! That is a form of striving. Every time you choose what is right over what is easy, you are striving in the way of Allah.

Mansoor: And what is the next best deed, Baba?

Baba: The Prophet ﷺ said it is performing Hajj Mabrur.

Mansoor: What is Hajj Mabrur?

Baba: It means performing Hajj sincerely for Allah, without showing off, and following the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ. When someone does this, Allah forgives their past sins.

Mansoor: Wow! So believing, striving for Allah, and performing Hajj are the best things to do?

Baba: Yes, my son. And remember, even small good deeds—like being kind, truthful, and helping others—bring us closer to Allah.

Mansoor: I will try my best, Baba!

Baba: MashaAllah, my dear. May Allah always guide you to the